



## **PROJECT ON REGIONAL COOPERATION IN TRANSPORT RESEARCH AND TRAINING**

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### **Abstract:**

The paper presents the FP6 project “Regional railway transport research and training centre foundation (RRTC)” coordinated by the University of Transport Applied Sciences (VTU) in Sofia, Bulgaria in partnership with the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering (MFK) in Kraljevo with the University of Kragujevac, Serbia. The first results of the project, which is aimed at developing cooperation of rail research and training in the region, have shown that it gives an opportunity for the Balkan research institutions and universities to unite into a network and thus join the European Research Area as important part of the integration processes in Europe.

### **1. Project objectives and resources**

The RRTC project is developed in Trend Transport 2, the instrument is SSA (Specific Support Actions). Its duration is 2 years beginning from 1 September 2005. The core team consists of five people from the VTU (the project coordinator Assoc. Prof. Dobrinka Atmadzhova, PhD; Anna Dzhaleva-Chonkova, PhD; Margarita Georgieva, MSc; Assoc. Prof. Borislav Bentchev; PhD Assoc. Prof. Nencho Nenov, PhD) and three from the MFK (Full Prof. Ranko Rakanovic, PhD, Prof. Dragan Petrovic, PhD and Assoc. Prof. Zlatan Soskic, PhD).

The project main aim is to establish an international organization ( Regional Centre) intended to contribute to developing sustainable railway transport in the Balkan countries. The Centre shall focus the efforts of researchers and university teachers on the implementation of the EU standards and requirements to the railway and other modes of transport. Although called regional, it will be open for membership of all relevant institution from all European countries.

The activities of the Centre are expected to increase the scientific potential in the region by creating joint working and expert groups and encouraging the development of new projects with transport companies, industrial enterprises, SSEs. The Centre







